

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 830

By Henry

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Mrs. Peggy Weil Steine of Nashville.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Peggy Weil Steine, a philanthropist, longtime leader of and fundraiser and contributor to the Democratic party, prominent leader of the Nashville Jewish community, community activist and patron of the arts; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Steine was an exemplary citizen and community leader who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for her fellow citizens in numerous capacities; few women have had the impact upon their community, state and nation in the realms of politics, religion, community service and the arts as Peggy Steine; and

WHEREAS, Peggy Steine was the first woman to lead the Jewish Federation of Nashville and served as Chairwoman of the National Women's Division of the United Jewish Appeal in 1997; in addition to serving on the boards of numerous Jewish organizations, including serving as a member of the Board of Overseers of the Hebrew Union College, which is the Reformed Jewish rabbinical seminary, she taught American Jewish History for 20 years at The Temple, Congregation Ohabai Shalom, was the first woman President of Congregation Ohabai Shalom, and was an active and devout, as well as a founding member of the Congregation Micah until her death; and

WHEREAS, one of Nashville's foremost champions of the arts, Mrs. Steine was appointed in 1983 by then Mayor Richard Fulton to be the first chairwoman of the Metro Arts Commission; she was also especially active in the former annual Summer Lights festival from 1982 to 1997 which brought people downtown to enjoy the arts and humanities; and

WHEREAS, Peggy Steine was a firm believer and advocate of public art, and promoted the idea that children should be introduced at an early age to all types of art, including the

performing arts; she understood early that art could be an effective tool in economic development, and donated her time, ideas and resources toward the promotion of the arts; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Steine was a founding member of the Nashville Symphony Association and the Adventure Science (Children's) Museum and was a board member of the W.O. Smith Community Music School and of The Nashville Institute for the Arts. Until her death, she served on the founding board of directors of the Frist Center of the Visual Arts; and

WHEREAS, Peggy Steine was deeply involved in improving the quality of life through education, including reading to third graders as a part of the Reading is Fundamental Program. She served on the Board of Meharry Medical College. Her involvement in community life was manifested in widely varying outlets, including involvement in the Nashville Predators Foundation and the National Conference for Community and Justice; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Steine served on the Democratic National Committee for 12 years and was chairwoman of the National Democratic Finance Council for three years; as a fundraiser, contributor and long-time Democratic party activist, she met such notable figures as Presidents Dwight Eisenhower, Lyndon Johnson, Jimmy Carter, and Bill Clinton, as well as Golda Meir and Eleanor Roosevelt; and

WHEREAS, Peggy Weil Steine was raised in Nashville, and attended Peabody Demonstration School, now University School of Nashville; she attended Wheaton College in Massachusetts, and in 1947 married David P. Steine; and

WHEREAS, opening many doors for women through her life of accomplishment, Mrs. Steine received the Distinguished Alumna Award from the University School of Nashville, the Humanitarian Award from the National Conference of Christians and Jews in 1978, and the YWCA Academy Award for Women of Achievement in 1995; and

WHEREAS, Peggy Steine was also deeply devoted to her family, and she always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; she enjoyed the loving companionship of her late husband, David, and was the proud mother of daughter and son-in-law, Peggy and Dudley Richter, son and daughter-in-law, David and Patti Steine, and son, Ronnie Steine, former Metro Vice Mayor of Nashville; and

WHEREAS, in addition to her children, Mrs. Steine will be sorely missed by her six grandchildren, Ashley, Jenny and Samantha Richter; Joseph and Mara Steine; and David P.

Steine; her loss will be deeply felt by the Nashville arts community, those organizations which she so diligently served, and the citizens of Nashville and Middle Tennessee, whose lives were enriched through her time and effort; and

WHEREAS, Peggy Steine leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all her chosen endeavors; many will remember her great humanity, her ready smile and generous praise, all traits that brought out the best in people; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional civic activist and community leader, and remarkable human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Mrs. Peggy Weil Steine, reflecting fondly upon her impeccable character and her stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mrs. Steine.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.